

California/Baja California Regional Workgroup

Summary of 2012-2014 Action Plan

March 10, 2015

Goal	Total Actions	Completed	Cancelled	Rolled-over to 2015-2016 Plan
Air	19	9	1	9
Water	31	17	0	14
Land	13	6	1	6
Emergency Response	4	4	0	0
Compliance/Stewardship	6	0	0	6
Environmental Health	9	7	0	2
Total	82	43	2	37

82 total actions: 43 completed, 2 canceled, 37 will continue in 2015-2016 Action Plan

Notable Accomplishments

Air

- Paved over 520,000 m² of roads in Mexicali to reduce PM emissions.
- San Diego County was re-designated as attainment for Ozone in July, 2013.
- Launched 4 media campaigns in Mexicali to reduce open burning and fireworks to reduce PM_{2.5} emissions in the binational airshed.

Water

- Connected 9,225 additional homes to wastewater service in California, and Baja California.
- Over 700,000 cubic yards of sediment was removed from channels and basins in the Tijuana River to reduce impacts to the Tijuana River Estuary in San Diego.

Land

- Established the first urban composting center in the border region; composted 150 tons of landscape cuttings used to plant 300 shrubs and 140 trees.
- Removed over 31,000 kgs. of plastic and debris during 6 cleanup events in Tecate, along a Tijuana River watershed tributary.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Updated the San Diego-Tijuana Sister City Plan in 2013.
- Table Top Exercises conducted in Tijuana and San Diego to improve binational emergency preparedness, including: 1st Responder Training, Port of Entry Release Exercise, Ammonia Release Exercise, and 120 hour HazMat Tech Training.

Enhance Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship

- Inspected 3,987 trucks entering the U.S. through the Otay Mesa and Calexico ports-of-entry, for compliance with hazardous waste laws; issued 10 NOVs.
- Convened a tri-national workshop (June, 2013) to promote the exchange of information and improve understanding of each country's respective compliance and enforcement programs.

Environmental Health Fundamental Strategy:

- Launched a new EPA/HHS (Border Health Commission) collaboration agreement to focus on environmental health issues and actions along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Conducted seven training workshops and/or fora focused on IPM, asthma and air quality, healthy homes, pesticide safety, and environmental health risks and threats. These efforts reached over 1500 stakeholders, including public health professionals, teachers, students, and the public.

Future Priorities

A gap analysis will be conducted to inform future funding priorities. The following priorities are underway:

Air

- Quantify emissions from idling vehicles at the Calexico ports-of-entry to better understand this source of pollution and identify possible emission reduction strategies (October, 2015).
- Install and operate a PM2.5 air quality monitor near the San Ysidro port of entry to better understand the transport of PM2.5 emissions in the binational air shed (February, 2015).

Water

- Connect an additional 767 households to wastewater treatment in Sonoyta, Sonora; Holtville, California; and Bisbee, Arizona.
- Restore the upper reach of the Tijuana River, which is a source of trash and sediment entering the Tijuana River Estuary in San Diego.

Land

- Collect over 15 tons of e-waste and build institutional capacity for e-waste best practices in Mexicali, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Clean and restore a segment of the New River in Mexicali and build capacity to mitigate and prevent future illegal dumping in the bi-national watershed.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Update Imperial County-Mexicali Sister City Plan.
- Work with the Emergency Response Policy Fora to facilitate trans-boundary movement of equipment and personnel during binational incidents and drills.

Enhance Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship:

- Convene a binational panel of experts at the 2015 California CUPA conference (February in San Diego), to enhance knowledge, communication, and collaboration among U.S. and Mexican enforcement professionals.
- Report on toxics releases and high emitters located within the California/Baja California border region, using EPA's Toxics Release Inventory. Work with SEMARNAT to harmonize a similar effort for Baja California.

Environmental Health Fundamental Strategy:

- Implement newly signed Collaborative Agreement between EPA and USBHC on environmental health. Identified actions to be implemented in the next two years include:
 - Workshops and training during Border Binational Health Week.
 - Establish a Pediatric Environmental Health Unit along the border.
 - Assess the state of Environmental Health along the border.
 - Create environmental health curriculum targeted to Promotores.